

Morton County, Kansas / Cimarron National Grassland

Wilburton Fire Fact Sheet Thursday, April 7th, 2016 at 4pm

Reported: 7:20pm Tuesday, April 5th, 2016

Cause: Under investigation

Location: Started near Morton County road J, approximately 2 miles north of Wilburton, KS. The fire quickly burned into the town of Wilburton

Size: Final mapped size is 700 acres

Management: Unified command remains with Morton County and US Forest Service

Containment: 100% at 4:00pm today (*This doesn't mean the fire is completely out*)

Jurisdiction: The fire is 58% on private and 42% on Cimarron National Grasslands

Fuels: The fire burned in grass, sand sage and agricultural lands

Resources: The initial response consisted of Morton County Volunteer Fire Department brush trucks and water tenders from Elkhart, Rolla and Richfield. Local businesses and individuals also responded with tractors, discs and road graders. Multiple local residents also responded with water trucks. US Forest Service, Morton County EMS and law enforcement and the Yarbrough Volunteer Fire Department from Texas County, OK also responded.

Morton County brush trucks and US Forest Service fire engines remain on scene

Damages: Private: 1 residence and 7 outbuildings are confirmed lost
National Grasslands: Fence lines and range infrastructure have been damaged

Current Actions: Continue to secure and patrol containment lines and mop up as needed
Assess impacts to the private infrastructure and National Grassland
Continue to develop rehabilitation plans as needed

Remarks: Limited areas of smoke are likely to be visible over the next few days. Fire managers prefer folks not report these smokes unless there is an immediate risk for escape

The cooperation of fire response resources and local volunteers was critical to the successful containment of this fire

With no foreseeable moisture forecasted, local officials want to encourage area visitors and residents to continue to avoid parking on dry grass and refrain from using open flame during these frequent windy days we are experiencing.

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